

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03397 232342Z

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 SS-15 CPR-01 SSO-00

EA-07 /039 W

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O 232316Z AUG 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8821

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3397

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, UN, KN

SUBJECT: SUSPECTED HIT-AND-RUN ACCIDENT INVOLVING MEMBER OF  
DPRK OBSERVER MISSION

1. LATE AUGUST 20 MISSION WAS INFORMED BY NEW YRK POLICE THAT AN AUTOMOBILE BEARING LICENSE PLATES REGISTERED TO DPRK OBSERVER MISSION HAD STRUCK A CYCLIST ON NEW YORK STREET AND LEFT THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT. CYCLIST WAS DETERMINED TO HAVE SUFFERED ONLY MINOR BRUISES AND WAS NOT HOSPITALIZED.

2. FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE BY THE POLICE OVER THE WEEKEND RESULTED AUGUST 23 IN THE FOLLOWING PICTURE OF THE INCIDENT FROM POLICE SOURCES: A GROUP OF THREE BOYS ON BICYCLES ATTEMPTED TO CROSS AN INTERSECTION ON A RED LIGHT. A CAR DRIVEN BY DPRK OBSERVER MISSION OFFICER, TRAVELLING INTO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE GREEN LIGHT, SLIGHTLY HIT ONE OF THE BICYCLES, THROWING THE RIDER TO THE PAVEMENT. THE DRIVER STOPPED AND DEBARKED FROM THE CAR. A UNIFORMED NEW YORK TRAFFIC CONTROL OFFICER WAS PRESENT, AND WHEN THE BICYCLIST CLAIMED HE WAS UNINJURED SHE SUGGESTED THAT THE DPRK DRIVER PROCEED FROM THE SCENE. IT WAS ONLY LATER THAT THE CYCLIST'S BRUISES FELT SUFFICIENTLY PAINFUL TO CHECK AT LENOX HILL HOSPITAL, WHERE QUESTIONS BY HOSPITAL STAFF PRODUCED THE INFORMATION THAT THE DRIVER HAD LEFT THE SCENE, WHICH WAS  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 USUN N 03397 232342Z

RELAYED TO THE POLICE. THIS STORY HAS BEEN

CORROBORATED BY THE INJURED CYCLIST AND ONE OF HIS COMPANIONS. POLICE ARE PRESENTLY ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE THE TRAFFIC CONTROL PERSON FOR FURTHER CORROBORATION, BUT DO NOT EXPECT SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FACTS TO EMERGE.

3. AT USUN REQUEST, THE POLICE APPROACHED THE DPRK MISSION AUGUST 23, WHERE THEY WERE RECEIVED CORDIALLY AND OFFERED ALL COOPERATION. NORTH KOREANS LATER CONFIRMED THE INVOLVEMENT OF THEIR AUTOMOBILE AND INFORMED POLICE OF THE NAME OF THE DRIVER (CHO HONG-JUN, THIRD SECRETARY). THEY OFFERED COOPERATION IN CASE OF INSURANCE OR OTHER FOLLOW-UP ON THE CASE.

4. IN VIEW OF THE FACTS THAT THE CYCLISTS WERE CROSSING THE INTERSECTION AGAINST THE LIGHT (BY THEIR OWN ADMISSION), THERE WERE NO SERIOUS INJURIES AND THE TRAFFIC CONTROL PERSON RELEASED THE KOREAN DRIVER FROM THE SCENE, POLICE DO NOT AT THE MOMENT PLAN FURTHER ACTION IN THE CASE, UNLESS TESTIMONY FROM THE TRAFFIC CONTROL PERSON REVEALS DIFFERENT FACTS.

5. USUN PLANS NO FURTHER ACTION IN THE CASE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INSURANCE, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 AUG 1976  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PDIP, KN, UN  
**To:** STATE  
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